



WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE

YEAR 1942.

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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942.

To The Chairman and Members of the  
Warrington Rural District Council,

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report upon the health of the district, including that of the Sanitary Inspector, for the Year 1942, curtailed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,

R.W.ELDRIDGE,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Area (acres)	22,840.
Estimated population 1942	22,920.
Number of inhabited houses	5,988.
Rateable Value	£. 138,197.
Sum represented by a ld.rate	£. 554

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	M	F	Total
Live Births - Total	218	208	426
Legitimate	208	199	407
Illegitimate	10	9	19

Still Births - Total	11	7	18
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Deaths - Total	109	97	206
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Deaths from Puerperal causes -

	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 (live & still births)
Puerperal & post-abortion sepsis	1	2.25
Other maternal causes	1	2.25
Total	2	4.50

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births	42
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	157

Deaths from Cancer	26
: : Measles	Nil
: : Whooping Cough	Nil
: : Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Population for Birth Rate and Death Rate 22,920.

per 1000 of estimated population,

	Live Birth rate	Grupe Death rate	Death rate from tuber- culosis of resp- iratory system	Death rate from Cancer	Maternal mortality per 1000 live & still births	Rate of deaths under one year per 1000 live births
Mean of 5 years 1937-41	17.8	9.1	0.27	1.13	7.60	54
Year						
1941	20.2	8.9	0.08	1.21	8.36	60
1942	18.5	8.9	0.30	1.13	4.50	42
Increase or decrease in 1942 on 5 years average						
1937-41	0.7	0.2	0.03	--	3.10	12
previous year	1.7	--	0.22	0.08	3.86	18

HEALTH SERVICES

Staff. Medical Officer of Health (part-time)  
R.W.Eldridge, M.D. B.Sc, D.P.A. M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P.  
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector .  
W.E.Broods, Cert.R.S.I. Meat Inspn. (Liverpool)  
Additional Sanitary Inspector,  
William A.Morrison, (from 1st.July 1942)  
Cert R.S.I., Meat & Foods Inspn. R.S.I.

GENERAL SERVICES

There were no notable changes in the general health services during 1942.  
Laboratory and Ambulance facilities continued satisfactorily as before.  
There are no treatment centres or clinics administered by the Council. Supervision of children of school age and under is undertaken by the Lancashire County Council.

Water supply and drainage

There were no important changes during the year.

Public Cleansing.

This was carried on as previously by arrangement with the contractors who covered the whole district.  
There have been many difficulties and owing to the shortage of labour and unsatisfactory action on the part of certain contractors the service became progressively worse during the year.



## Housing

No new houses were erected during the year. The great majority of the working class houses are on the whole in good condition. There are, however, a small number fit for demolition. Defects occurred from time to time and were eventually remedied, but owing to the difficulty in obtaining labour and materials there has often been much delay in carrying out the necessary repairs.

The number of sanitary inspections made during the year including inspections for nuisances and housing defects numbered 976.

403 preliminary notices were served and in 43 cases these were followed up by statutory notices after which the defects were remedied.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk supply, Dairies & Cowsheds.

Owing to the shortage of staff it was not possible to carry out anything like adequate inspection of premises as in previous years. For a period these inspections were not done more often than once in about 18 months. On the whole the general condition of the premises was satisfactory and in some cases structural improvements were made.

Number of Dairy farms and cow-keepers	87.
: : Milk purveyors	24.
: : Inspections made	63.
: : Milch cows in the district	1,110.

No samples were taken for examination for tuberculous infection. 20 samples were examined for general cleanliness 5 of which were unsatisfactory. In these cases improvements were effected after consultation with the producers.

### Animals intended for human food.

There was occasional slaughtering of pigs in various parts of the district. Animals were in all cases inspected at the time of slaughter.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been no notable outbreaks of Infectious disease.

### Diphtheria

19 cases of Diphtheria were notified and removed to Hospital. After full investigation and final diagnosis, however, it was found that 8 of these cases were suffering from some other disease so that the correct figure for Diphtheria is 11. There were no deaths.

## IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation was carried out at sessions held for the most part on school premises and attended by a private practitioner. Two injections of A.P.T. prophylactic serum at an interval of one month were given. Efforts were made to concentrate attention largely on pre-school children, particularly the age period 12 months to 2 years. This was done because a much higher percentage of school children were already immunised than pre-school children and also on account of the fact that the early years are the most dangerous.

The parents of each child who attained the age of 12 months received a letter from the Medical Officer of Health pointing out the urgent reasons for immunisation and the facilities which exist. A form of consent was enclosed and this when signed was returned to the Health Office. In this way and by day to day propaganda of a more informal kind at welfare clinics and during the course of health visiting the percentage of pre-school children immunised has been considerably increased. By the end of December 1942 it was estimated that of 2,000 school children in the district 70 per cent were immunised, and that of approximately 1,600 children under 5 years, 50 per cent were immunised. As no immunisation is advised during the first year, it must be borne in mind that this figure of 50 per cent really represents about 62 per cent of the pre-school children who could be immunised.

It may be of interest to point out that during the year 1942 there was only one case of Diphtheria occurring in a child under the age of 5 years. This might be taken as an indication that immunisation efforts during 1942 together with those of previous years were beginning to bear fruit.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1942.

There were 380 cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. This table shows the number of infectious diseases notified and the number removed to Hospital. There were no deaths.

DISEASE.	Total cases at all ages.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	56	1	1	2	3	6	32	5	2	4	-	-	-	16
x Diphtheria	19	-	-	1	-	-	2	7	1	8	-	-	-	19
Whooping Cough	22	1	3	6	4	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	43	1	-	1	-	2	9	1	1	5	6	15	2	-
Pyrexia	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	1
Measles	217	5	26	20	20	31	101	10	1	2	-	1	-	1
Erysipelas	10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	2
xx Cerebro-spinal Fever	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	5	-	1	-	8
Total	380													47

x Only 11 of these cases finally proved to be true diphtheria.

xx One of these proved to be tuberculous meningitis.



# CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
All causes.	109	97
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	5
Tuberculosis - other forms	2	3
Syphilis	-	-
Influenza	2	-
Measles	-	-
Polio-myelitis & polio encephalitis	-	-
Infec. encephalitis.	-	-
Cancer, all forms.	11	15
Diabetes	4	1
Intra-Cran: Vase: lesions.	10	11
Heart disease.	31	27
Other circulatory diseases.	2	1
Bronchitis.	6	6
Pneumonia.	3	2
Other respiratory diseases.	1	1
Peptic ulcer.	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	1	-
: (2 years & over).	-	-
Appendicitis.	2	-
Other digestive diseases.	2	4
Nephritis.	1	3
Puerperal sepsis.	-	1
Other maternal causes.	-	1
Premature birth.	3	2
Other causes, at birth.	5	3
Suicide.	2	-
Road Traffic Act.	4	-
Other violent causes.	5	4
Other violence.	9	7

## TUBERCULOSIS

New cases					Deaths				
Years	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Years	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-
15	2	1	1	-	15	-	1	1	-
20	4	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-
25	4	2	-	2	25	-	3	-	-
35	2	1	-	2	35	-	1	-	1
45	-	-	-	-	45	-	1	-	1
55	-	2	-	1	55	1	1	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-
& over	-	-	-	-	& over	1	-	-	-
Totals	12	6	1	6	Totals	2	7	1	3
	18		7			9		4	





